SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Kerala): Because of the callous indifference of the Government, we are walking out.

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: This is complete indifference of the Government towards such a sensitive issue. Members of the cabinet are sitting here and they should respond. They are refusing to respond to our request.

(At this stage some hon. Members left the Camber)

RE. ALLEGED SCAM IN NARCOTICS POLICY

SHRI R. MARGABANDU (Tamil Nadu): Madam, there is a shocking news about liberalisation of the narcotics policy which has appeared in all the newspapers today. Now the floodgates have been opened for helping drug trafficking and illegal opium trade. Drug trafficking is a heinous crime and none on the earth can forgive us for helping drug smugglers.

Madam, on 4.10.1996 a rule has been framed, thereby liberalising the earlier rule. Hitherto the rule was that a poppy cultivator had to supply 48 kilograms of poppy seeds to the Government at the rate of Rs. 500 per kilogram, failing which the licence given would be cancelled. There are about 83,000 licensees in India. In U.P., Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, there are about 70,000 persons who have defaulted by not supplying these seeds to the Government.

This amendment provides that those cultivators who fail to reach the minimum cultivating yield as specified above during the crop year 1995-96, may be granted licence if they undertake to fulfil the said yield requirement next year. Thereby, Madam, the person need not supply his opium, and he can divert his opium to the open market where it is being sold at the rate of Rs. 20,000/- per kilogram. If it is taken to foreign countries, 100 per cent profit can be made. So, it involves Rs. 4,000 crores to Rs. 8,000 crores worth of narcotic drug. It will affect the entire generation. The entire generation of school-going and college-going children will be affected.

The person involved in this case is the Finance Minister, Mr. Chidambaram. He has given consent to this. In spite of objections raised by high officials, this liberalisation was introduced. I want to know whether it has been introduced with the permission and the knowledge of the Prime Minister. If the Prime Minister has no knowledge of it, what steps is the Prime Minister going to take against the Finance Minister? Is he going to dismiss him? Or has he to resign?*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): Madam, this should not go on record.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What did he say?

DR. U. VENKATESWARLU:*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It will not go on record.

SHRI R. MARGABANDU: Madam, I withdraw it.*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is not going on record, and you are not mentioning it. Don't take undue advantage of the generosity of the Chair through the special mention. You confine yourself to what you have been allowed. The narcotics policy. I don't think that the Finance Minister had got anything to do with this in his previous job. Don't bring politics into everything, please.

SHRI R. MARGABANDU: By liberalising this issue, by this general concession or amnesty or the freedom given to the cultivators and by allowing them to supply it next year, the entire cultivation will go to the market. It will destory the entire nation. It will affect

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*Not recorded.

not only our national but it will affect other countries also. There will be a very bad record about us, and serious penalties will be imposed on us. By allowing this, we are giving a very long rope to drug smugglers. As a matter of fact, the person has become a friend of the drug-mafia. It is affecting the entire nation.

I plead that a Half-an-Hour Discussion should be allowed for this. It is not a light thing which can be excused. It is a matter affecting the entire nation. I pray to this House that a Half-an-Hour Discussion should be taken up on this. The Prime Minister should come to this House and submit a statement on whether it has been done with his knowledge or it has been done without his knowledge. If it has been done without the knowledge of the Prime Minister, he should tender his resignation to save this nation.

With this, I conclude my speech.

The Vice-Chairman (Shri Md. Salim) in *the chair*

RE: REPORTS OF INDIA LOSING ITS SEATS ON THE I.M.F. AND THE WORLD BANK BOARDS

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL (Rajasthan): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I am going to raise in the House today an issue which is of vital national importance.

It is very unfortunate that India lost its battle over securing a seat in the extended Security Council. Now another blow is going to hit India when India is going to lose its seats on the Boards of Trustees of the IMF and the World Bank.

A news item has appeared in "THE HINDUSTAN TIMES" of today and other newspapers. It says that India may lose the IMF/World Bank seat.

Despite all claims made by successive Governments about our achievements on the economic front, the stark reality is that India, having been a founder-member of the Brettenwoods institutions i.e. the IMF and the World Bank, whereby our quota was 5.1 per cent, now has come down to 2 per cent. It is because, according to the World Bank Atlas, the per capita income of Bangladesh is $1350 and that of Pakistan $2210 and that of India is $1290. That is less than the per capita incomes of Pakistan and Bangladesh. We may say anything in the House or outside regarding our achievements on the economic front, on account of the economic liberalization and the economic policies being pursued by the earlier Governments or by this Government, but the fact of the matter is that we are behind Pakistan and Bangladesh so far as the per capita income, according to the World Bank Atlas is concerned.

Now, Sir, why is this so? The reason given is that it is on account of the depressing impact on GDP, because 40 per cent of our National Income, according to their survey, is in blackmarket. Naturally it does not get reflected in the record of production. It is the unrecorded production, which is outside the estimates of the GDP. Naturally our GDP gets depressed. That is why it may be one of the reasons that our per capita income is so low, lower than Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Now, three Asian countries—Indonesia, which has 1.02 per cent quota, Malaysia, which has 0.57 per cent quota and Thailand, which has 0.4 per cent quota—had in aggregate 1.63 per cent quota. They are now reaching 2 per cent quota limit. If these three countries reach 2 per cent quota limit, which now, as on date is close to India's 2 per cent quota, then, I think they will get a better representation in the Board of Trustees of the IMF and the World Bank and they will have a greater say and India will lag behind and will lose the seat. This is a very serious matter. India was dutybound to represent the interests of Sri Lanka